

July 14, 2008

TO: Members of the Regional Council Executive Committee

FROM: Mayor Mary Manross, City of Scottsdale, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE
MEETING OF THE MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH A
POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Monday, July 21, 2008 - Noon
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Cholla Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee with a possible executive session has been scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by telephone conference, or by video conference.

Please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Alana Chávez at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions regarding the Executive Committee agenda items, please contact Mayor Mary Manross at (480) 312-2433. For MAG staff, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AGENDA

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee will be called to order.

2. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council Executive Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council Executive Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items will be given an opportunity at the time the item is heard.

3. Approval of Regional Council Executive Committee Consent Agenda

Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Executive Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).

2. Information and discussion.

3. Approval of the Regional Council Executive Committee Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*
BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*3A. Approval of the May 19, 2008, Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

*3B. Consultant Selection for Phase II of the MAG Commuter Rail Strategic Planning Consulting Services Project: Grand Avenue Commuter Rail Corridor Development Plan

The FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the

3A. Review and approve the May 19, 2008, Regional Council Executive Committee meeting minutes.

3B. Approval of the selection of URS Corporation to develop the Grand Avenue Commuter Rail Corridor Development Plan for an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

MAG Regional Council in May 2008, includes funding to prepare a Grand Avenue Commuter Rail Corridor Development Plan. Key project tasks include coordinating the study effort with BNSF Railway, evaluating current and future conditions, identifying operating and capital requirements, and defining financial requirements. The original Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the MAG Commuter Rail Strategic Planning Consulting Services project was issued on July 14, 2006. The URS Corporation was selected to prepare the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan, which was accepted by the MAG Regional Council on April 23, 2008. As outlined in the RFQ, MAG reserved the right to retain the consultant selected for Phase I work for future phases of the overall project. However, as specified in the RFQ, future phases of the project were the subject of separate contracts to be authorized at a future date by MAG. The Grand Avenue Corridor was identified in the Commuter Rail Strategic Plan as the initial corridor to be studied by MAG. MAG developed a project scope of work and issued a project proposal request to URS Corporation on June 2, 2008. URS Corporation provided a response to the scope of work, which was reviewed by a multi-agency review team on June 20, 2008. The evaluation team recommended to MAG that URS Corporation be selected to develop the Grand Avenue Commuter Rail Corridor Development Plan for an amount not to exceed \$600,000. Please refer to the enclosed material. This item is on the July 9, 2008 MAG Management Committee for action.

*3C. Amendment to the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Accept Funding from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for the MAG Transportation Ambassador Program

On June 25, 2008, MAG was notified that the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will grant MAG \$20,000 to support the implementation of the MAG Transportation Ambassador Program that was included in the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program. It is necessary to amend the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to accept these funds. Please see enclosed material.

3C. Approval to amend the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to accept \$20,000 from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for the MAG Transportation Ambassador Program.

*3D. Amendment to the MAG FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Provide Funding to ASU for a Light Rail Economic Impact Study

Light rail is one of the largest single infrastructure investments the Phoenix metropolitan area has ever made. Its impacts on the economy are of great interest to the cities, businesses and citizens it affects. To understand these impacts, MAG is proposing to hire the School of Planning at Arizona State University (ASU) at a cost of \$24,852.10. MAG approached the School of Planning and the Department of Finance and Real Estate at ASU as well as the University of North Texas, all of whom have expertise in economic impact studies. Only the School of Planning at ASU responded positively to the request for further information. ASU students, under direction from the faculty of the School of Planning, would collect the data required. Faculty would analyze it and provide advice to MAG. MAG federal funds would be used for this purpose. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*3E Request to Amend the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget for a MAG Transportation Associate and Human Services Transportation Planner I

In January 2008, the development of the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget was initiated. On May 28, 2008, the Regional Council approved the Work Program and Budget. For several months, MAG has been experiencing workload issues. Staff is recommending that the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program be amended to include a MAG Transportation Associate for \$80,000 and for a Human Services Transportation Planner I position. The Transportation Associate position will be for approximately a six month period to assist the MAG member agencies with obligating federal funds requests. Additional funding may be requested if this effort is successful. Please refer to the enclosed material.

3D. Approval to amend the MAG FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to hire the School of Planning at Arizona State University (ASU) to provide a Light Rail Economic Impact Study at a cost of \$24,852.10.

3E. Approval to amend the FY 2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget for a MAG Transportation Associate for \$80,000 and for a Human Services Planner I position.

**ITEMS TO BE HEARD
BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4. River of Trade Corridor Coalition Membership

On May 14, 2007, the MAG Executive Committee approved a one-year trial membership with the River of Trade Corridor Coalition (ROTCC). The membership was approved with the understanding that MAG would host a national quarterly meeting for ROTCC. On May 29-30, 2008, MAG hosted the ROTCC national quarterly meeting at the Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa in Litchfield Park, Arizona in conjunction with the first Arizona Transportation Summit. The Arizona Transportation Summit was well attended by elected officials and staff from around the state. The ROTCC meeting was attended largely by their membership and speakers. The MAG Executive Committee may consider membership status with the ROTCC.

5. Regional Office Center Update and Project Alternatives

At the June 23, 2008, ROC Working Group, staff presented a comparative project cost and investment analysis of the three project alternatives to co-locate MAG, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), Valley Metro Rail (METRO), and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA). After reviewing this information, the consensus of the ROC Working Group was to proceed forward and return to the respective agency boards to potentially pursue the 210 E. Earll building for further consideration. At that time, METRO did note concerns regarding its ability to participate in the project including the financial impact on the organization resulting from vacating its current lease and locating in a building not directly on the light rail line.

The METRO Board is scheduled to consider the 210 East Earll site on July 16, 2008. The METRO staff recommendation is to not participate in the 210 East Earll site. On July 17, 2008, the Regional Public Transportation Authority Board is scheduled to also consider the 210 East Earll site. On July 2, 2008, the Phoenix City Council voted unanimously on a resolution

4. Discussion and possible action.

5. Information, discussion and possible action to recess the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussion and consultation with MAG's attorney for legal advice and to consider MAG's position and instruct its attorney concerning negotiations of agreements and acquisition of property A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4). The meeting may then be reconvened to take action to recommend the following:

Directing MAG staff to pursue further negotiations of a Regional Office Center or a MAG only relocation project and initiating appropriate next steps for a lease, purchase or build-to-suit option.

to support a downtown location for the Regional Office Center.

Based upon METRO's pending action to not participate, the City of Phoenix resolution supporting a downtown location, the upcoming expiration of MAG's existing lease in December 2008, and the future direction of co-locating the agencies remaining uncertain, MAG should be prepared on how to best meet its relocation and office space needs, which may include leasing. Staff is looking for direction on alternatives to relocate MAG.

The Executive Committee may vote to recess the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussion and consultation with MAG's attorney for legal advice and to consider MAG's position and instruct its attorney concerning negotiations of agreements and acquisition of property A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4).

The meeting may then be reconvened to take action regarding negotiations of agreements and acquisition of property. Additional confidential material will be forwarded to members of the Executive Committee.

6. Adjournment